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"precious metals." Moreover, the Federal statute covering all the metals and more, yet prescribing little or nothing as to any sort of mining upon the public domain, except that the exploration and purchase of its mineral lands shall be free to all who are citizens, in fact or by declared intention, proceeds to set forth certain conditions of continued possessory title and of formal purchase, eventuating in the issue of a patent, conveying complete ownership. Such ownership once perfected, the land is no longer on the public domain; and the laws of the States and Territories concerning mines and mining deal largely, though not exclusively, with the operation of mines thus privately owned. Mr. Snyder's lengthy descriptive title is therefore singularly inadequate to characterize the scope of his book.

An examination of the work itself confirms our distrust of the critical competency of the author and compiler. As compiler, indeed, he has produced a large collection of cited cases, which cannot fail to be useful to students and practitioners searching for precedents. Yet even in such work it is important that the editor should intelligently comprehend and clearly state the facts and principles of each case, if he undertakes to state them at all. We note several instances, in which Mr. Snyder has treated the text of a decision as if it fully stated all the facts of the case, and one, at least, in which he has made such use of an illustrative diagram as to mislead his readers.

Outside of the limits of simple compilation, Mr. Snyder's criticisms and arguments are more audacious and dogmatic than trustworthy. The defects of the U. S. mining law, the complications resulting from the well-meant attempts of State and Federal courts to construe it, and the large number of situations, arising under it, which have not yet received final adjudication by the highest tribunal, leave a wide field open for volunteer analysis and suggestion. But it does not follow that every practitioner can enter that field with authority.

Without going into further detail we may say frankly that Mr. Snyder's book is decidedly inferior, as a summary and guide, to the second edition of the work of Curtis H. Lindsay, published a little later (1903) in San Francisco; but in view of the circumstances that there are only two or three recent treatises on U. S. mining law, it would probably be worth while to a lawyer practicing in that department to procure this one, on the chance of its containing some cited cases not included in the others.

RUMSEY'S PRACTICE. 2nd Ed., Vol. II. By William Rumsey and John S. Sheppard, Jr. Albany: Banks and Company, 1903, pp. cii, 1148.

The second volume of this edition does not call for or justify any modification of the views expressed in the *COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW*, Vol. III. p. 133, upon the appearance of the first volume, as to the character and value of the work.

The present volume has the same merits and the same defects that marked the first and is essentially a digest of decisions upon

the points of practice relating to trials, judgments, executions and appeals under the New York procedure.

That this new edition of Rumsey's Practice will be purchased by a large number of practitioners in the State of New York is entirely probable; that they will find it, on many occasions, a time-saving instrument is true; but it is not a work of great value, and it is not one to be recommended to students.

NEW YORK BAR EXAMINATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Joseph Jacobs and Louis Appleborne. New York: The Banks Law Publishing Company. 1903. pp. 371.

The volume assumes to be nothing more than a compilation of questions which have been propounded by the examining committee of New York State during the past seven years, together with what the editors deem to be the correct answers. These answers are amplified by brief statements of the reasons and fortified by excerpts from pertinent statutes and decisions to which references are made. The reviewer, who has not been compelled to take the examinations for admission to the bar annually for the past seven years, but who does dimly recall the secrecy and sanctity with which the examiners were wont to enshroud the examination, cannot help wondering how the editors secured the questions. The book is nothing more nor less than a cram book, but as a cram book it is somewhat better than the average. Its editors seem to recognize the wisdom of ignoring details and treating the fundamentals with all the fulness compatible with the compass of the one small volume. Superimposed upon a law-school training and a knowledge of leading cases on the various subjects treated it should be a very useful aid in the review preparatory to taking the examinations for admission to our local bar. To one without such a preliminary training the book would be a delusion and a snare. The citations bear evidence of having been made with care and the excerpts appear to have been judiciously selected and pruned.

WHERE AND HOW? A HANDBOOK OF INCORPORATION. By John S. Parker. New York: The Brown-Green Company. 1903. pp. 164.

This is a useful compendium of the corporation laws of New York, New Jersey, Maine, Delaware, West Virginia, South Dakota, and Massachusetts, containing in compact and convenient form much information needed to determine the two important questions for practicing lawyers, namely, where to incorporate, and how to incorporate. It is divided into four parts: The first part contains a statement and comparison of the laws of the states above mentioned. The second part contains a table showing at a glance the amount of organization taxes and fees and annual franchise or license taxes payable in those states. The third part treats briefly of the subject of the taxation of business corporations in New York, and the fourth part treats in a similar manner of the formation and management of business corporations.

The book in general is characterized by accuracy and clearness, and we know of no better hand book covering precisely this field.